

## EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

## Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 11353898  
PUBLICATION DATE : 24-12-99

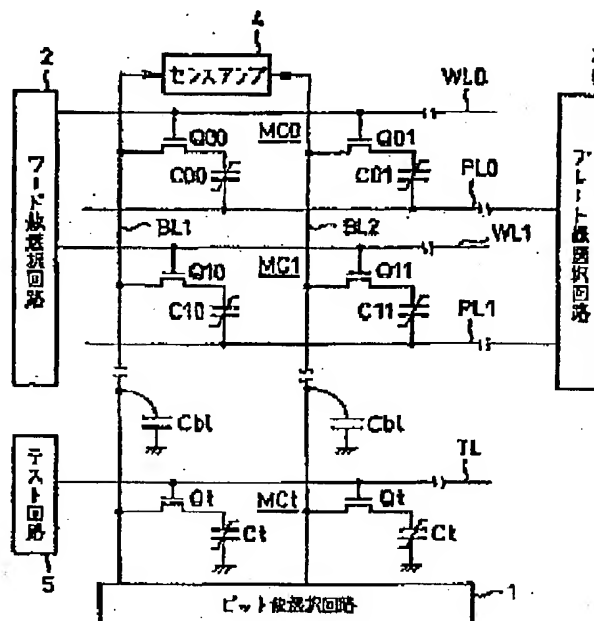
APPLICATION DATE : 05-06-98  
APPLICATION NUMBER : 10157844

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INT.CL : G11C 29/00 G01R 31/28 G11C 11/22  
G11C 14/00 G11C 11/401

TITLE : FERROELECTRIC MEMORY



**ABSTRACT :** PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To screen ferroelectrics without actually deteriorating the same by adding a test capacitor to a floating capacitor of a read line and generating an equivalent capacity, at the time of screening, to capacity when the ferroelectric capacitor of a memory cell is actually deteriorated.

**SOLUTION:** A test dielectric capacitor Ct is connected in parallel to a bit line capacitor Cb1, thereby, a parallel capacitance is increased. A potential generated to a bit line becomes lower than a potential generated at a normal mode. This indicates that the same potential as in a state where a capacitance of a ferroelectric capacitor is decreased, that is, where the ferroelectric capacitor is deteriorated is generated. Whether or not the dielectric capacitor is good can be judged from an operation state of a sense amplifier 4 which is determined to operate, not to operate by whether a difference of the potential of the bit line impressed to the sense amplifier 4 and a potential of a reference voltage is larger or smaller than a detection level of the sense amplifier 4.

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